

REMARKS

Drawings and Specification

The drawings and the specification were objected to by the Examiner.

The drawings have been amended by removing reference numeral 115 in Fig. 3, reference
5 numeral 1160 in Fig. 4, reference numeral 2138 in Fig. 8, 2012 in Fig. 11; repositioning
reference numeral 1115 in Fig. 4; adding reference numerals 1113 and 1117 to Fig. 4, 2013 and
2015 to Fig. 10, 2010 to Figs. 12A and 12B, and 2035 to Fig. 14. Entry is requested.

The specification has been amended to overcome the objections. Other clarifying
amendments have been made to the specification. No new matter has been included. Entry is
10 requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

15 Claims 2-4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The
antecedent basis issues have been overcome by the amendments presented herein. Claim 10 has
been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Publication No. US2002/0100479 to Scarberry et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the amendments to the claims is requested.

5 Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is novel and inventive over Scarberry. Scarberry does not disclose or suggest a seal for a mask that has an inner sealing member with a cut out region and a bridging section in the nasal bridge region.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

10 Claims 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Scarberry in view of United States Patent No. 7,007,696 to Palkon et al. Claims 7-15 have been canceled.

New Claims

15 New claim 18-20 are based upon the specification and drawings, particularly Figs. 15 and 16. These claims are dependent upon claim 1 which Applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Entry, consideration and allowance of claims 18-20 is requested.

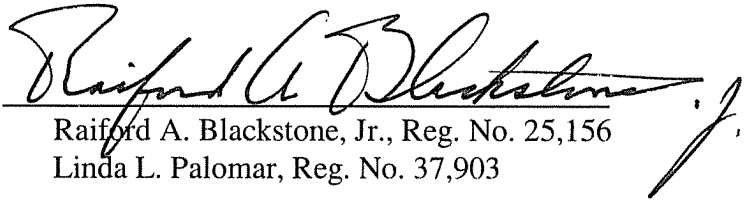
 New claims 21 and 22 have been added. Applicants submit that claims 21 and 22 are novel and inventive in light of the cited prior art. Neither United States Publication No.
20 2002/0100479 to Scarberry et al. nor United States Patent No. 7,007,696 to Palkon et al. disclose or suggest a seal for a mask that has an inner sealing member with a cut out region in the cheek region. Entry, consideration and allowance of new claims 21 and 22 is requested.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 W. Adams Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

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